THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) 8495/8496 Bhubaneswar-Rameswaram Express (weekly) *via* Chennai Egmore-Manamadurai has been announced in the Railway Budget 2007-08.

(b) and (c) Gauge conversion of Karaikudi-Manamadurai section is targeted for completion during 2007-08. The necessary efforts are being made to expedite progress of project.

Outsourcing of work

1494. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the areas of work outsourced in the last two years;

(b) what methods were adopted for outsourcing the work; and

(c) how many educated youth were provided employment by outsourcing the above functions alongwith the details thereof, category-wise, General, O.B.C., S.C., and S.T. beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Outsourcing of certain non-core activities have been resorted to. Among other, these include:—

1. Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) testing of rails and welding of rails.
2. Maintenance of Diesel Generators, Water Coolers, Window type AC Plants, roof mounted package units of AC coaches, Static Invertors, UPS.
3. Enroute cleaning of coaches, mechanized cleaning of rakes at depot premises, pest and rodent control, refilling and maintenance of fire extinguishers.
4. Garbage disposal, rag picking, cleaning of toilets.
5. Sale of tickets to a limited extent.

(b) The outsourcing was done mainly through tender/selection procedure as per extant policy.

(c) Such records are not maintained in this Ministry.

Creation of new posts in RPF

†1495. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of increasing incidents of terrorists attacks on trains, there is any proposal to create new posts in Railway Protection Force or make new postings in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.